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Tax for soaking coconut husks in Ponnani taluk.

* 1202 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state— 8–40 a.m.

(*a*) whether the tax on Government poramboke lands used for soaking coconut husks in Chowghat Subdivision, Ponnani taluk, Malabar, was increased in June 1951 from Rs. 2–1–4 per acre to Rs. 310–15–0;

(*b*) whether the Government received any memorandum, dated 30th July 1951, from representatives of coconut growers and holders of poramboke lands protesting against this increase;

(*c*) whether the tax was reduced to Rs. 50 per acre subsequently; and

(*d*) whether the excess amount of the tax collected was returned and, if not, why?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The rate of rent for occupation of Government lands in Chowghat sub-taluk was enhanced by the Deputy Tahsildar, Chowghat, to Rs. 250 per acre at the end of fasli 1360.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) Yes.

" (*d*) The excess collections have not yet been refunded. There are quite a large number of cases in which refunds have to be sanctioned. The signatures of the parties have to be obtained in the refund bills in all these cases and credits have also to be verified. Urgent steps are being taken by the Collector to refund the excess collections."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Was this increase from Rs. 2 to Rs. 250 per acre effected with the knowledge and approval of Government or has it been left to the discretion of the local officials? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It was done by the local authorities on the basis that the soaking of coconut was done for trade purposes."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Government take action against the local officials who by their conduct thus bring the Government into disrepute? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There was some scope for enhancement. Probably the officers did not understand the exact scope. I will examine the matter."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government imposing this tax in other parts of Malabar and is not this raising of the tax to Rs. 50 a steep rise? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It has been proposed to reduce the tax to Rs. 50."

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Sri C. H. Kanaran :—" In view of the fact that the coir industry has collapsed in Malabar, will the Government be pleased to reduce this enhancement? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker :—" It has been reduced to some extent. Further reduction will be considered in view of the fact that the coir industry has not been very prosperous."

Sri R. Siddanna Gowd :—" Is the increase from Rupees 2–1–4 to Rs. 310–15–0 compatible with equity and justice, Sir? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker :—" We are trying to mete out justice, Sir."

Training centres for village guides under community projects.

* 1203 *Q.*—Sri A. Rathinam : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Village Guides are being trained for the Community Projects and how many are Harijans; and

(*b*) how many centres are maintained, how many Principals and Vice-Principals have been appointed and the cost of maintaining each centre?

The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari :—" (*a*) The first batch of Village Guides numbering 93 have completed the training of 6 months and of these 3 are Harijans.

" (*b*) Three training centres are maintained. They are located at Peddapuram, Parli and Gandhigram.

The centres at Parli and Peddapuram have got a Principal each, while the Gandhigram centre has got an Honorary Principal and a full paid Vice-Principal.

The estimated expenditure on each centre is as follows :—

	First year.	*Second year.*	*Third year.*	*Fourth year.*
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Peddapuram ..	1,88,964	88,964	58,964	58,964
Parli ..	1,88,964	88,964	58,964	58,964
Gandhigram ..	1,86,492	86,492	56,492	56,492 "

Sri A. Rathinam :—" May I know from the Hon. Chief Minister how the Community Project Scheme will help the landless poor and especially the Scheduled Castes? "

The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari :—" Sir, this is an all round development plan and the development in the project areas is bound to assist the landless poor in the area."

Sri K. Vinayakam :—" May I know, Sir, whether in the matter of recruitment, the Communal Government Order is being observed because considering the large number of guides recruited I find the recruitment among the Harijans is very small and negligible? "